

for More Information

The following CSLB publications
can help you avoid problems
before they occur:

*What You Should Know
Before You Hire a Contractor*
provides information about hiring
and working with contractors.

*Home Improvement Contracts:
Putting the Pieces Together*
provides answers about the legal
requirements of home improvement
contractors.

For a free copy of these publications
call 1-800-321-2752,
or log onto the Internet at
www.cslb.ca.gov.



P.O. Box 26000
Sacramento, CA 95826
www.cslb.ca.gov

*Keep these numbers
and call the
Contractors State
License Board
for help . . .*



Information for
Disaster Victims Only:

1-800-962-1125

To check on a
contractor's License:

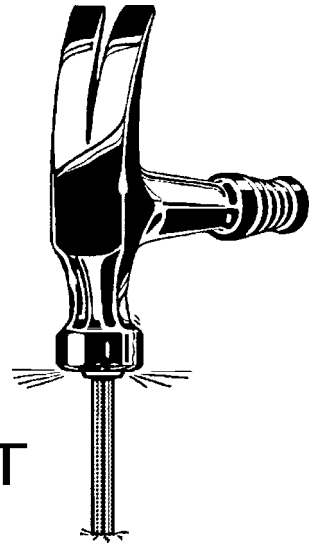
1-800-321-2752

To order publications:

1-800-321-2752

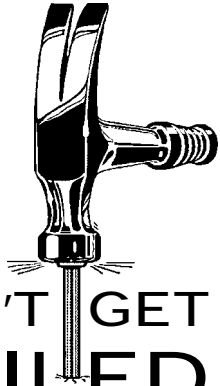
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*After a
disaster*
**DON'T
GET
NAILED
BY A SCAM
ARTIST!**



*Whether your home
or property has
been damaged by fire,
flood, or earthquake,
the Contractors State
License Board can
help you get the
repairs done
right!*





DON'T GET NAILED BY A SCAM ARTIST!

Don't get nailed by an unscrupulous or unlicensed contractor. Before you hire a contractor or sign a contract for property repair, the California Contractors State License Board offers the following advice:

- When repairing disaster damage, beware of unscrupulous or unlicensed contractors.
- Don't rush into repairs, no matter how badly they're needed.
- Don't just hire the first contractor who comes along.
- Don't be victimized by someone making a door-to-door presentation, offering to do repair jobs or home improvement on the spot, and requiring a cash deposit.
- Even on the smallest job, you must get proof that the person you are dealing with has a contractor's license in the trade for which you expect to have the work done.
- Get a written contract that contains all the details of the job to be performed.

HIRE A LICENSED CONTRACTOR

Deal only with licensed contractors. Ask to see the contractor's "pocket license," together with other identification. If the person claims to be representing a contractor, but can't show you a contractor's license or home improvement salesperson registration card, call the contractor and find out if the person is authorized to act on behalf of the contractor.

Get the contractor's license number and call the CSLB's toll-free automated telephone number, 1-800-321-2752, to verify that the license is valid, or log onto the Internet at www.cslb.ca.gov.

Get at least three bids, and check references of other work the contractor has done in your area.

GET IT IN WRITING

Get a written contract, and don't sign *anything* until you fully understand the terms.

Remember, if it's in the contract, you can expect to have it done. If it's not there, even with a verbal promise, you may not get what you think you're paying for.



AVOID PAYMENT PITFALLS

By law, a down payment on a home improvement contract cannot exceed 10 percent of the contract price—or \$1,000—whichever is *less*.

Don't let payments get ahead of the work.

Keep records of payments.

Don't pay cash.

Don't make final payment until you're satisfied with the job *and* the building department has signed off on it.



Whether your home or property has been damaged by fire, flood, or earthquake, the Contractors State License Board can help you get the repairs done right!

Call 1-800-321-2752 to check a contractor's license or get further information on home and property repairs.